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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instruction of my Government, I am enclosing herewith the statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 27 May 1999 following the indictment of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other senior Yugoslav officials by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

9915967 (E) 010699

Annex

Statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, May 27 - Regarding today's shameful statement by Ms. Louise Arbour, Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, the Federal Government assesses with indignation that this represents yet another manipulation by NATO aggressors vis-à-vis our country and further proof that the Hague Tribunal is not an institution of law and justice but a mere instrument in carrying out the orders from Washington and Brussels. This is yet another attempt to mislead the world public in order to cover up responsibility for the crime of genocide against the people of Yugoslavia. Militarist quarters are trying to halt the further erosion of support for the aggression and to prevent mass requests by world public opinion to put an immediate end to this senseless aggression by NATO, to the massacres of civilians and wanton destruction. The timing of the statement was chosen precisely when the diplomatic offensive is gaining momentum and when the prospect of a peaceful solution is supported by the vast majority of mankind. This act helps to continue and intensify the well-known policy of demonizing and indicting our entire nation. This is an attempt to proclaim the victims the guilty party and to avoid the responsibility of NATO leaders for the genocide of the people of this country.

Ms. Arbour is a simple puppet in the hands of warlords, a part of the aggressors' machinery which, by manipulating the world public, provides a semblance of justice and harbours those responsible for the genocide waged against the people of Yugoslavia. However, this exercise is becoming ever more difficult because the world public is increasingly becoming aware of behind-the-scenes games, the tactic of obfuscation and moves like today's statement by Madam Arbour.

This act - although designed to give a new lease on life to the NATO propaganda machine already losing the nerve and to paper over the cracks appearing in the Alliance - will surely result in an even stronger unity of the people with its leadership in the just struggle for freedom. Those giving and executing orders in the commission of the horrible crimes and massacres against the citizens of Yugoslavia - such as Messrs. Javier Solana and Wesley Clark or their bosses in Washington and London, William Jefferson Clinton and Anthony Blair - will have to account for their deeds rather than those defending their people and State. Cowards and officers without honour, politicians without morals and a modicum of humaneness kill women and children, patients in hospitals and newborn babies in maternity wards, bring traffic on European major transport routes to a standstill and threaten the environment to be left to the next generation.

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the highest federal and republic-level State leaders are democratically elected by the citizens of our country, on the basis of their contribution to safeguarding the vital State and national interests. This senseless show cannot diminish the importance and the perspective of the political and diplomatic initiatives taken by the President of the FR of Yugoslavia and by our State leadership with a view to

bringing about an immediate stop to aggression and to resuming the political process and a constructive resolution of all outstanding issues in Kosovo and Metohija, while preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and the independence and dignity of our people.